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the Mountains of Likhi in far better state than were Kartli and Kakheti. Coming from Astrakhan, the mission in company with a Georgian emissary on his way home from Moscow, crossed the mountains through the Balkar country. In Kutais they conducted protracted business with King Alexander III, the patron of the Dominican Castelli, and they followed his court to Skanda; they also saw the exiled King Taymuraz I of Kakheti, whose fortunes had ebbed even lower than when Mishetski saw him, and to whom Alexander had allotted a country estate in Radsha. The Russian mission passed through a prosperous and thriving countryside, and they remarked the numerous castles, fortified manors, the stone and timber churches, and the many villages with their scattered dwellings lying among gardens, orchards and vineyards. Tolochanov gives a long description of Kutais where he greatly admired the palaces and churches; he visited Gelati and noted carefully, with the interest of a reverend Russian, the most famous of the icons which were shown for the edification of the distinguished foreigners. Tolochanov made what was nothing less than a detailed survey of the country, and he reports information supplied to him by Pashenga (Peshangi) the King's secretary, which may indeed have been prepared with the object of creating a favourable impression on him.[1] According to Peshangi, the important *mtavarni* of Imereti numbered over 100, and there were more than 1,100 *aznaurni* subject either to the Crown or to the different *mtavarni*. The figures given by Peshangi indicate that a full levy of the Kingdom would put about 15,000 men into the field,[2] in addition to the royal forces which were permanently maintained and which numbered 3,000 men. The King's personal serfs, including the people of Kutais, Skanda and other smaller towns, were given by Peshangi as 60,000. Tolochanov reports the crops as wheat, barley, spelt, millet, beans, peas, springcorn, hemp and others, and he states that cereals were gathered twice in the summer. Silkworms were cultivated in almost every home; there were iron-mines in the country and some fagotted iron was produced; copper was plentiful and natural saltpetre was found in the mountains. There were cattle and fowl of all kinds in abundance, and among wild animals he noted deer, elk, roebuck, wild pigs and goats, beavers, otters, foxes, lynx, wolves and rabbits.

[1] Polievktov, *Tolochanov*, pp. 186 *et seq.*

[2] Taking an average of more than 10 serfs to each of the *aznaurni*. Peshangi's statement that 40,000 men could be brought out, seems an obvious exaggeration to impress Tolochanov.

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241 There were vineyards in abundance and apricots, quinces, cherries, nuts of all kinds, mulberries, apples, pears, plums, raspberries, currants of all kinds, melons, water-melons, cucumbers both Russian and Crimean, pumpkins both Russian and Persian, onions and most other green vegetables.

439 Kutais was visited by traders from many countries, from Turkey and Persia, from Azov, from Gurelei (Guria) and from Didian (Mingrelia). The merchants were mostly Armenians, men of Azov, Persians, Turks and Jews, and a great variety of goods was to be found in the markets, including Persian

"And amid his Noble Horsemen I was taken to see the City of Cotatis and the Castle" (Castelli).

velours and all kinds of silk pieces. Trading was mostly done in the local currency.[1]

[327] There are iron deposits in Imereti and Abkhazeti and the production reported by Tolochanov appears to have assumed some importance in the following century, for the traveller Tavernier states that "*the greater part of the iron consumed in Turkey comes from Mingrelia*". The export of nuts from the Georgian lands had always been a staple of foreign trade, and the English traveller, Duckett, speaking of the eastern districts, avers that there "*is carried yearly into Persia an incredible quantity of hazel-nuts, all of one sort and good-*

[1] Polievktov, *Tolochanov's Mission*, p. 188.

As a result of the liquidation within the Russian SFSR of several autonomous units, which had been accused of collaboration with the Germans and of traitorous activities during the Second World War, the Georgian SSR gained about 2,500 square miles of territory on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus. It received the southern portion (1,200 square miles) of the abolished Karachay Autonomous Oblast, including the former capital of the oblast, Mikoyan-Shakhar (now renamed Klukhori), and the health resort of Teberda. It also gained the southwestern corner (300 square miles) of the former Balkar-Kabardinian (now Kabardinian) Autonomous SSR, including Mount El'brus, the highest peak of the Caucasus, as well as a 70-mile-long strip of about 1,000 square miles in the south of the former Chechen-Ingush Autonomous SSR. These transfers of territory from the Russian SFSR to the Georgian SSR took place in 1943.

The economic importance of the Georgian SSR lies chiefly in its manganese production, its petroleum-refining industry, and the growing of subtropical products, tobacco and vineyards.

Manganese ore is mined at Chiatura, site of the second largest manganese reserves in the world. Part of the production is utilized in the ferromanganese works of Zestafoni, the first heavy metallurgical installation of the republic, which was based on the power from the Rion hydroelectric station. The rest is exported to other parts of the USSR and abroad via the port of Poti, on the Black Sea. The old coal mines of Tkibuli, west of Chiatura, yield a kind of brown coal, while the Tkvarcheli mines, developed before the Second World War in the Abkhaz Autonomous SSR, supply the growing metallurgical industry of Georgia with good-quality coking coal. Recently other brown-coal mines have been developed near Akhaltsikhe. Petroleum deposits in the Shiraki steppe, in the eastern part of the republic, are being increasingly exploited. The raw fuel is processed in the cracking plant of Mirzaani, located near the fields. Barite deposits near Kutaisi form the basis of an important chemical industry in that city and make that section of Georgia one of the main producers of that mineral in the USSR.

Heavy industry in the Georgian SSR included previously the ferromanganese works of Zestafoni and machinery works in Tbilisi and Kutaisi. It is being developed to a considerable degree during the current Five-Year Plan by the construction of the first Transcaucasian iron and steel mills at Rustavi, on the Kura River, southeast of Tbilisi. Rustavi, now under construction, lies on the right bank of the river, and the plant, which will be supplied from the Dashkesan iron mines, on the opposite

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bank. The city is scheduled to have a population of about 50,000 inhabitants. Kutaisi is the site of the first Transcaucasian automobile plant, under construction during the current Plan, the initial production to be restricted to 30,000 3½-ton trucks per year. There are cement works at Kaspi and lumber mills at Mtskheta, Borzhomi, and Marelisi. A large paper mill has been built on the Ingur River in the vicinity of Zugdidi.

The principal agricultural regions in the Georgian SSR are the Black Sea littoral and Imeretia, in the west, and Kakhetia, in the east. The Black Sea littoral includes the coastal zones of the Abkhaz and Adzhar Autonomous SSR and the Kolkhida (or Colchis) lowland along the lower course of the Rion River. Kolkhida was formerly a malaria-infested marshy region covered with dense jungle vegetation. In order to render this area suitable for agriculture, a huge drainage project was begun during the years before the Second World War, and is being continued during the present time. The Rion River and its arms were diked in, and the banks were planted with eucalyptus trees to absorb moisture from the ground. The importance of this subtropical region lies mainly in the fact that, with the exception of the small Lenkoran' lowland of Azerbaijan, this is the only area of the USSR where such crops as tea, citrus fruits (including oranges, lemons, tangerines, and recently grapefruit), tung trees, geranium, camphor, ramie, and so forth can be grown in industrial amounts. Tea and citrus fruit plantations cover the greatest acreage. In addition to the subtropical crops, tobacco, almond, and fruits are also important. The industry is based almost entirely on the agricultural production. There are tea-drying plants, tobacco factories, canneries, fruit driers, essential-oil plants, and other industries. Imeretia, which lies in the upper part of the Rion basin, is noted for its silk and wine production. Sericulture is practiced in the region west of Kutaisi, near Samtredia and Tsulukidze, and large silk mills are located in Kutaisi itself. Wines are made south of Kutaisi, with an important center at Zestafoni. Other important crops are corn, the most important grain type under cultivation, and sugar beets, which were introduced into Georgia during the second Five-Year Plan. Kakhetia, in northeastern Georgia, is the most important wine-producing area of the republic. Abundant heat and insolation, together with sufficient rainfall and a fertile soil, render this region most suitable for viticulture. The Kakhetian wines form one of the chief exports of the Georgian SSR. Other products include cotton, only recently introduced into Kakhetia, to-